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Patent Claims

1. Method for searching for data in at least two databases (18'-23'), in particular for searching for telephone directory, address book or appointments diary entries or the like in at least two telephone directory, address book or appointments diary databases or the like, in which:

- a search term is entered,
- on the basis of the entered search term, the predecessor or a plurality of predecessors and the successor or a plurality of successors to the search term and, if available, the search term itself from each of the databases (18'-23') are stored in a search table, and
- the search term, if stored in the search table, or that term from the successors stored in the search table which comes closest after the entered search term is displayed.

2. Method according to Claim 1, characterized in that the displayed successor is used as a search term for updating the search table.

3. Method according to Claim 1, characterized in that either the displayed term is selected in order to display and/or select for further processing the data associated therewith, or a new search term is determined for continuing the search.

4. Method according to Claim 3, characterized in that the new search term selected is the next predecessor or the next successor to the displayed term from the search table.

5. Method according to Claim 1, characterized in that only the respective predecessors and successors to the search term in the connected databases and also, if available, the search term itself are stored in the

search table in response to a search query, and in that the data associated with a search term are read from the appropriate database (18'-23') and stored only for the term displayed, in order that they may be displayed and/or processed further upon request.

6. Method according to Claim 1, characterized in that each term stored in the search table has an associated unique identification number.

7. Method according to Claim 6, characterized in that, for the purpose of reading the data associated with a displayed term from the appropriate database, the identification number of the displayed term is transmitted with a read request.

8. Method according to Claim 1, characterized in that, together with the respective predecessors and the successors to the search term and also, if available, with the search term itself, the associated data from the connected databases are also stored in the search table in response to a search query in order that they may be displayed and/or processed further upon request.

9. Database system, in particular for carrying out the method for searching for data according to Claim 1, having

- at least two databases (18'-23'), each of which has an associated database control device (18''-23''),
- a database primary control apparatus (26)
 - which can be connected to the database control devices (18''-23'') for the purposes of transmitting data and control commands to the database control devices (18''-23'') and receiving them therefrom, and
 - which has an associated search table memory (27) which is able to store data transmitted from the database control devices (18''-23''), and

- a user interface (28) which is connected to the database primary control apparatus (26) and via which search terms and control commands can be entered for the purpose of simultaneously searching for data in all the connected databases (18'-23'), and via which terms and data found during the search in the connected databases (18'-23') can be output.

10. Database system according to Claim 9, characterized in that the database primary control apparatus (26) is connected to a database access interface (25) to which the database control devices (18''-23'') of the databases (18'-23') can be connected for the purpose of interchanging data and control commands using communication links (14, 24, 17).

11. Database system according to Claim 10, characterized in that the communication links (14, 17) provided are radio links.

12. Database system according to Claim 10, characterized in that the communication links provided are infrared links.

13. Database system according to Claim 10, characterized in that the communication links (24) provided are wired links.

14. Database system according to Claim 9, characterized in that the databases are telephone directory, address book and/or appointments diary databases.

15. Database system according to Claim 9, characterized in that the databases (18'-23') are provided on various apparatuses, at least one of which is a telephone (10, 15), in particular a mobile telephone (10, 15).

16. Database system according to Claim 15, characterized in that the database primary control apparatus (26) is provided in the telephone (10), in particular in the mobile telephone (10).

17. Database system according to Claim 9, characterized in that a plurality of database primary control apparatuses (26) are provided, each of which is arranged in a different apparatus.